

were not the very means bestowed upon it as necessary to its existence. It steals on its prey by night, and extends its arm to the bird on the branch, or the great moth, with a motion so imperceptibly slow, as to make sure of its object.\* Just so, the Indian perfectly naked, his hair cut short, and his skin oiled, creeps under the canvass of the tent, and moving like a ghost, stretches out his hand, with a motion so gentle as to displace nothing, and to disturb not even those who are awake and watching. Against such thieves, we are told, that it is hardly possible to guard; and thus, the necessities or vicious desires of man subjugate him, and make him acquire, by practice, the wiliness which is implanted as instinct in brutes; or we may say that in our reason we are brought to imitate the irrational creatures, and so to vindicate the necessity for their particular instincts,

\* For our purpose, it may be well to notice other characters of this, and similar animals which prowl by night. They are inhabitants of the tropical regions. Now, the various creatures which enliven the woods in the day-time, in these warm climates, have fine skins, and smooth hair; but those that seek their prey at night have a thick coat like animals of the arctic regions. What is this but to be clothed as the sentinel is clothed whose watch is in the night? They have eyes too, which, from their peculiarity, are called nocturnal, being formed to admit a greater pencil of rays of light. For this purpose the globe is large and prominent, and the iris contractile, to open the pupil to the greatest extent. We have seen how all their motions and instincts correspond with their nocturnal habits.